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NOTE: This paper was prepared before
U Thant's announcement in
New York this afternoon that
Egypt has accepted a cease-
fire.

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8 June 1967

DCI BRIEFING NOTES

Points of Special Interest
in the Near East Crisis

Possibility of Major Israeli Action Against Syria

I. Various quarters--particularly among the Arabs--have expressed concern that the next major Israeli action will be against Syria.

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B. Now that the Israelis have established military control over most of their other specific territorial objectives, it would seem logical that they might now undertake such a move against the Syrians.

1. The terrain along the Israeli-Syrian frontier has long inhibited Israeli commanders from the kind of direct ground action they prefer in reprisal actions against the Arabs.
- C. If the Israeli political objectives include the drastic deflation of the more radical Arab states, they could hardly find a more obvious target.
1. Fundamentally, it was the Syrians who started this whole crisis.
 2. It was the Syrians who have persisted in sending terrorists and saboteurs into Israel.
 3. It was the Syrians Nasir mobilized to defend.
- D. Furthermore, the Syrian regime was subject to tremors even before the outbreak of hostilities, and there have been signs that it is losing control of the situation in northern Syria, which is traditionally somewhat disaffected from Damascus.
- II. There are inhibiting factors, however, against an Israeli move on Syria at this time.

A. Militarily, Israel's logistics are very likely now straining to support the desert action in Sinai, where at least some fighting continues.



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C. Moreover, the Israelis were warned by the Soviets some time ago against mounting a really serious, all-out attack against the present Syrian regime, to which a certain amount of Soviet prestige has become attached. It is hard to say how much weight this warning still carries under current circumstances, but it certainly must be a factor in Israeli thinking.

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